GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1153
ANSWERED ON:26.11.2002
STARVATION DEATHS UNDER FOOD FOR WORK PROGRAMME
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Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of starvation deaths reported in the areas covered under the Food for Work Programme in each State;

(b) whether the starvation deaths show that Food for Work Programme is failure in the country; and

(c) is so, the steps taken by the Government to stop the starvation deaths in future?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA)

(a) No starvation deaths have been reported by any drought affected states where the Food for Work Programme (FFWP) was in operation.

(b) The Food for Work Programme (FFWP) was in operation from January 2001 to March 2002. During this period 40.32 lakh tonnes of foodgrains was allocated to the drought affected States to provide relief in the drought affected districts. During this period, no such incident was reported by any of the State Governments.

(c) From 01.04.2002, the Special Component was introduced under the SampoornaGrameen Rozgar Yozana (SGRY) to provide relief in the drought affected districts of the country. Till date 38.29 lakh tonnes of foodgrains has been released to the calamity affected states under this component. In addition, the other Schemes such as the Mid-dayMeal Programme for the Primary School Children, the Antyodaya Anna Yojana for the poorest of the poor, the Annapoorna Scheme for the old age, Public Distribution System for Below Poverty Line persons are in operation to prevent malnutrition, starvation deaths etc.